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(54) Title: HAMMERHEAD RIBOZYMES

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to non-natural cis- and trans-cleaving hammerhead ribozymes and methods for selecting non-natural ribozymes. The present invention also relates to methods of cleaving a target RNA, methods for reducing the level of a target RNA in a cell, and methods of reducing the level of a protein in a cell. The present invention also provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising the non-natural ribozymes of the invention.